

COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION REPORT
5/21/07
FROM THE KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION
BY
INTERIM COMMISSIONER KEVIN M. NOLAND

April 4-5, 2007, Kentucky Board of Education Meeting

Highlights of the meeting were as follows:

➤ ***DISCUSSION ON PROGRESS TOWARD PROFICIENCY BY 2014***

At its April meeting, the Board examined data on the progress of schools toward proficiency by 2014 and emphasized the urgency that is needed to ensure schools make that goal. The data basically indicated:

- In 2006, 568 schools (51.26%) are in the Meeting Goal category, 408 schools (36.82%) are in the Progressing category, 91 schools (8.21%) are in the Progressing but Declining category and 41 schools (3.7%) are in the Assistance category.
- Projected 2014 performance for all schools with stable data indicates 382 schools (37.12%) will be in the Meeting Goal category, 513 schools (49.85%) will be in the Progressing category and 134 schools (13.02%) will be in the Assistance category.

Much concern was expressed by board members about what the data showed and the need to get all schools to proficiency by 2014. Department staff and board members agreed to continue the discussion at the May retreat and the June meeting. Information on what is already being done with low-performing schools as well as what additional supports are needed will be part of the next phase of discussion on this critical topic.

For more information on this agenda item, contact *Rhonda Sims* at (502) 564-2256 or via email at Rhonda.Sims@education.ky.gov.

➤ ***CATS TRANSITION ISSUES DISCUSSED***

The Kentucky Board of Education learned at the April meeting that the National Technical Advisory Panel on Assessment and Accountability (NTAPAA) has concluded that the differences between the old and new assessment systems are substantial enough to preclude a successful equating of the new assessment scale to the old scale. However, it was noted that NTAPAA members recognized that it is desirable to make comparisons between results of the old and new assessments due to tracking trends and identifying schools that have or have not met state and federal accountability targets. Thus, members were told the panel considered several options for linking the old and new systems.

The final NTAPAA recommendation that was conveyed to the Board was for the construction of concordance tables. Concordance tables relate performance on different tests of the same general content using the equipercentile method. For example, the SAT and ACT tests have been linked using this method.

Board members characterized this recommendation as good news because no interim accountability system will be necessary. Trends and identifying where schools stand within the system can continue with comparisons being made as in the past.

For more information on this topic, contact Kevin Hill at (502) 564-2256 or via email at Kevin.Hill@education.ky.gov.

➤ ***FINAL APPROVAL GIVEN TO 707 KAR 1:280-1:380, REVISIONS OF THE KENTUCKY ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS***

After discussion by the Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction Committee in February and April, the Board gave final approval to 707 KAR 1:280 – 1:380, Revisions of the Kentucky administrative regulations for special education programs. Extensive input was sought and received from constituencies that resulted in additional revisions to the regulations before final approval by the board. Also, the Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction Committee did request that information on the alternate assessment be brought to them at the June meeting.

A public hearing will be held on these regulations on May 31 at 10:00 a.m. local time in the State Board Room, First Floor, Capital Plaza Tower, 500 Mero Street, Frankfort, Kentucky.

For more information on the special education regulations, contact Larry Taylor at (502) 564-4970 or via email at Larry.Taylor@education.ky.gov.

➤ ***MINORITY SUPERINTENDENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM DISCUSSED***

An update on the status of the Minority Superintendent Internship Program (MSIP) was presented to the Kentucky Board of Education. This program is designed to help identify and train a pool of highly qualified minority superintendent candidates for Kentucky's school districts. Elaine Farris, Shelby County Superintendent, and Diane Woods, Campbellsville Independent Superintendent, (both graduates of MSIP) spoke to the board and credited this program with enabling them to secure their positions as superintendents and open the door to opportunities that otherwise would not have been available.

Michael Dailey, Director of the Division of Educator Quality and Diversity, shared that the current recruitment cycle for MSIP will be open from April 1 through May 25. Interviews and appointments to the program will be made in June.

The Board emphasized that the Department needs to intensify its efforts to revitalize and expand MSIP. All local superintendents were urged to contact the Department with names of promising minority leaders for possible consideration.

If you need more information on MSIP or desire an application packet, contact Michael Dailey at (502) 564-1479 or email him at Michael.Dailey@education.ky.gov.

➤ ***702 KAR 7:065, DESIGNATION OF AGENT TO MANAGE HIGH SCHOOL INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS GIVEN FINAL APPROVAL***

After discussion at the February and April meetings, final approval was given to 702 KAR 7:065, Designation of Agent to Manage High School Interscholastic Athletics. As part of the amendments to the regulation, a motion worded as follows was passed by the Board:

Whereas the Kentucky High School Athletic Association has acted as the agent of the Kentucky Board of Education for several years in matters relating to high school athletics, it is the responsibility of the Board to periodically review and monitor this entity's operation. In fulfillment of this responsibility, the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) in 1993 appointed a **Commission on Interscholastic Athletics** to study optimum methods and best practices to deliver quality high school interscholastic athletic programs. I now move the Kentucky Board of Education re-establish a **Commission on Interscholastic Athletics** charged with the responsibility of reviewing the operational efficiency of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association. This review shall include, but is not limited to, an examination of the following issues;

- Are business practices conducted efficiently?
- Are existing by-laws monitored and enforced?
- Is the amount expended for legal services appropriate and reasonable?
- Are eligibility rulings and appeals addressed promptly and consistently?
- What is the role of eligibility hearing officers? Does the Board of Control usually accept their findings?
- Review of the relationship of the KHSAA to the court system. Are orders of the court being appropriately addressed?

The board chair will appoint seven members, one from each of the Supreme Court Districts, to be ratified by the Kentucky Board of Education. This commission may report their findings periodically but shall provide a summary to the Kentucky Board of Education by the end of the calendar year.

Questions on the KHSAA regulation and bylaws, constitution and referendum changes should be directed to Julian Tackett at the KHSAA at (859) 299-5472 or via email at jtackett@khsaa.org.

May 9-10, 2007, Kentucky Board of Education Retreat

Highlights of the meeting were as follows:

➤ ***DR. BARBARA ERWIN HIRED AS NEXT COMMISSIONER***

At its May 9-10 annual retreat, the Kentucky Board of Education ratified the contract of Dr. Barbara Erwin of Saint Charles Illinois as the next Kentucky Commissioner of Education. The vote was unanimous.

Dr. Erwin stated that she felt it is an honor, a privilege and a pleasure to serve as the next commissioner. Erwin indicated that she wants Kentucky to be the first state to meet proficiency by 2014.

Erwin is currently the superintendent of the St. Charles Community Unit School District 303. The new commissioner will officially begin her duties on July 16.

Next Meeting: June 13-14, 2007, Frankfort, KY